

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 144
By Harper

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Burnece Walker Brunson on the celebration of her ninetieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Burnece Walker Brunson will celebrate her ninetieth birthday on March 22, 2005, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brunson was born March 22, 1915, in Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee and attended elementary and secondary school in Chicago before earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Chicago Teachers College; and

WHEREAS, as a testament to her dedication to young people and education, Mrs. Brunson further prepared for her professional career by earning a Master's degree in Special Education from the National College of Education in Evanston; and

WHEREAS, on December 26, 1936, Mrs. Brunson was joined in marriage with Robert Louis Brunson and the couple's blessed union produced two children, Carol and Boyce; and

WHEREAS, as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, Mrs. Brunson is renowned for her activities as a benefactor, a teacher, and an advocate for youth and education, in addition to many other worthy causes; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, she has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled admiration of young people, colleagues, and fellow community members alike; and

WHEREAS, she has served students as both a classroom and a Special Education teacher, and also as a primary school Principal in the Chicago Public Schools, in which position

she earned the respect of her students, peers, and administrators alike for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, she has shared her acumen and expertise concerning child development as an Early Childhood Education trainer, advisor, and national consultant for the Head Start Program, as well as with the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, D. C. as a Child Development Associate National Representative; and

WHEREAS, a pillar of her community, she has also meritoriously served on the Boards of Directors of many outstanding organizations, including Nashville's Martha O'Bryan Center, the Tennessee State University Advisory Committee for Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance, and as a member of Washington, D.C.'s Ethics Committee for the National Association for the Education of Young Children; and

WHEREAS, also reflecting her unwavering commitment to children and youth, Mrs. Brunson has participated as a parent, leader, and leader trainer with the Girl Scouts; and

WHEREAS, steadfast and devoted to her faith, Mrs. Brunson is an active and devout member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Chicago and also the Village Presbyterian Church in Nashville, where she has been working with the Church's youth; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Burnece Walker Brunson was blessed with the love and companionship of her husband, Robert, now deceased, for forty-nine wonderful years; their two children, Carol and Boyce, one grandson, Brandon Phillips, and a beautiful granddaughter, Kyla Phillips, have provided much love and joy through the years; and

WHEREAS, despite her many honors, including two Lifetime Achievement Awards from the National Head Start Association and the National Black Child Development Institute, she remains an ever gracious and most humble Christian servant who feels privileged to give and do for others, thereby reflecting the love of the Lord; and

WHEREAS, a talented and accomplished poet, Mrs. Brunson books of poetry include *Life is Like, Black Is – Celebrate It*, and *We Shield Each Other*, and her poetry has also been published in numerous publications; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brunson exemplifies the spirit of allegiance to community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; her dedication to her church, her family, her community, and to the good people of the State of Tennessee is indeed unparalleled; and

WHEREAS, as Mrs. Brunson approaches her tenth decade, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Bernece Walker Brunson, friend, family woman, and humble servant, for her well demonstrated integrity, compassion, and generosity in a life of service to the children of our great Nation, congratulate her on the celebration of her ninetieth birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.